

REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted claims 1-24 into the following Groups:

Group I, Claims 1-5 and 7-9, drawn to a non-human mammal comprising an exogenous human cytochrome P450 gene;

Group II, Claim 6, drawn to a non-human mammal comprising an exogenous human cytochrome P450 gene, wherein the endogenous p450 gene of the mouse has been disrupted;

Group III, Claims 10-11, drawn to a method for screening a library and preparing a map of the mouse Cyp3a genes on a chromosome;

Group IV, Claims 12-15, drawn to a targeting vector for deleting mouse Cyp3a gene, method of making the vector and a method of deleting the Cyp3a gene in a cell;

Group V, Claims 16-21, drawn to a method of preparing a Cyp3a knockout mouse, the knockout mouse and cells and tissues of the knockout mouse; and

Group VI, Claims 22-24, drawn to a method of producing biologically active human cytochrome P450.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-5 and 7-9, for examination, with traverse. At least Groups I and II (claim 6) should be rejoined because the special technical feature of both sets of claims is a “non-human mammal” comprising a cytochrome P450 gene that may, or may not, be “disrupted” (claim 6).

The Examiner contends that, since the “endogenous” gene of the mammal is disrupted, the mammal “lacks the endogenous cytochrome P450.” However, this contention does not negate the fact that both of the claimed “nonhuman mammals” comprise a human cytochrome P450 gene, the special technical feature. The Examiner faces no undue burden,

therefore, in conducting a search for both groups of claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner rejoin Groups I and II.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a personal interview or discussion would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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By M. Luke M. Marks
Reg No. 34, 717

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5404
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Stephen A. Bent
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,768